



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Satoshi Otsuka **Examiner:** Ricky Levern Mack
Serial No: 10/723,224 **Art Unit:** 2873
Filed: November 26, 2003 **Docket:** 17281
For: MEDICAL APPARATUS **Dated:** March 21, 2005
Conf. No.: 9183

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE TO SPECIES ELECTION

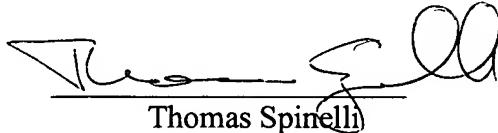
Sir:

Pursuant to the species election requirement imposed in the Official Action dated January 28, 2005, the Applicant respectfully traverses the species requirement set forth therein but nonetheless elects the claims of Species I (first embodiment), i.e., Claims 2-4 and 15-17, along with generic claims 1, 18, and 20 for continued prosecution herein.

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.8(a)

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Dated: March 21, 2005



Thomas Spinelli